



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JEFFERSON CITY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FALSE MILITARY ID

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Jefferson City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to producing false identification that appeared to identify him as an officer in the armed forces of the United States.

Mark Lee Lavine Fowler, also known as Col. Fowler or Dr. Fowler, 41, of Jefferson City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this afternoon.

Fowler admitted that he impersonated an officer at a “Support the Troops” rally at the Missouri Capitol on Aug. 2, 2003. **Fowler** wore a U.S. military dress uniform to that event, with the insignia of a colonel and a U.S. Navy identification badge. **Fowler** claimed to be part of the U.S. Aircraft Recovery Team, a unit he claimed assists in airplane crashes.

“In reality,” Graves said, “there is no such organization as USART in the United States Navy, and **Fowler** has never been a member of any of the armed forces, let alone an officer.”

Fowler, who has attended various events dressed as and impersonating an officer, also displayed many photos with him in his military uniform at his place of employment. In a search of his home, Graves said, law enforcement officers not only found the uniform, but various medals, award ribbons assembled for wear on a dress uniform, and dog tags in his name with a false unit.

Fowler admitted he had constructed the fake ID badge himself after doing some research on the Internet.

Under federal statutes, **Fowler** could be subject to a sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000. His sentence will be determined according to

the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

Fowler was originally charged in a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Jefferson City on Oct. 3, 2003.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Anthony P. Gonzalez. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Missouri State Capitol Police Department.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow